

Newark Coalition for Neighborhoods

May 30, 1989

Gregory Dixon
Deputy Director
Fighting Back
Vanderbilt Clinic
1301 22nd Avenue, Rm. 2553
Nashville, Tennessee 37232-5305

Dear Mr. Dixon:

I want to thank you for calling me regarding the Letter of Intent NCN submitted in response to your request for proposals. I apologize for our misunderstanding in not including a specific geographic area of Newark which we would target for program implementation. Unfortunately, our committee was under the impression we could specify the designated area as part of the formal application process.

While we had considered targeting Ward areas, the general consensus among our participants was that merely specifying entire Wards would not be the most effective approach to take. Wards, being political designations, are too often artificially shaped creations which would not provide the kind of comprehensive indicators we felt were needed to most effectively target the resources the Foundation is offering.

Our committee felt it would be more appropriate to use neighborhood areas containing specific social and economic indicators which demonstrate most clearly the need for the program resources. These neighborhood areas would be based upon the Census Neighborhood Statistics Program which identifies Geographic Definitions of Neighborhoods for twenty-one areas in Newark.

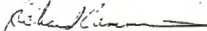
The indicators we are using to select areas include levels for unemployment, income earning, school years completed, adult to youth ratios and drug activity and arrests. This information is being researched from local drug rehab, health, social service and law enforcement agencies along with Census data.

In addition, we are in touch with the Urban Institute in Washington D.C. regarding a recent study which identified 880 "underclass" neighborhoods nation-wide. These were defined according to new more comprehensive socio-economic criteria which indicate higher risk for major social problems including crime, drugs and AIDS. Our aim for this outreach is to see how many of these areas are in Newark.

We are looking to identifying about fifteen neighborhood areas which are most in need and meet the population limit of your guidelines. This should be completed in a few more days. However I wanted to keep you abreast of our approach and progress.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours,


Richard Cammarleri
Executive Director

Newark Coalition for Neighborhoods

April 27, 1989

W. Anderson Spickard Jr. M.D.
Program Director
Fighting Back
Vanderbilt Clinic
1301 22nd Ave. Rm. 2553
Nashville, Tennessee 37232-5305

Dear Dr. Spickard:

Recently the Board and membership of the Newark Coalition for Neighborhoods (NCN) reviewed the literature describing the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation funding program for the development of community-wide efforts to reduce substance abuse through initiatives focusing on preventive education and expanded treatment.

As Newark's major city-wide coalition of community-based neighborhood organizations, NCN focuses on a variety of issues which affect the quality of life for residents throughout the city. As with most urban areas, substance abuse consistently ranks among the top issues with which Newark residents are vitally concerned.

By any and all quantitative and qualitative indices, by subjective commentary and objective surveys, Newark residents and the neighborhood groups which serve them feel that substance abuse, with its myriad social costs and impact, needs to be addressed in a comprehensive and meaningful fashion.

These are the major factors which led to this correspondence which I am submitting as a formal letter of intent regarding the Foundation program. There is a clear consensus among NCN members that this program offers a promising opportunity for establishing a truly effective substance abuse prevention and reduction initiative.

The membership is impressed with the rationale and guidelines for the program insofar as they are pragmatically thoughtful and sensitive to the complexities of the substance abuse problem as reflected in the stress placed on preventive education and expanded treatment.

Unquestionably there is a clear and present need for a meaningful, coordinated initiative to prevent and reduce substance abuse in Newark. The statistics are chilling. One of the most dramatic effects of this problem, AIDS, is of particular relevance. Newark, with less than 5% of the State population, has 20% of the reported AIDS cases statewide. Of these cases, 67% result from intravenous drug use, a proportion which is above the national average. In addition, for the past three years the seven existing drug rehabilitation/prevention programs in Newark have had waiting lists of up to six months.

Particularly important in NCN's decision to submit this letter of intent was the emphasis in the Foundation program on stimulating coordination and cooperation among institutions and agencies throughout the community. This is an approach which NCN has used successfully throughout the course of its existence.

Since its inception in 1978, NCN has developed a proven record of coalition-building among a wide variety of community-based organizations and between these neighborhood groups and residents and other sectors of the City including government, business, education and health institutions.

NCN has established itself as an effective means to initiate, organize and coordinate city-wide outreach and programming efforts. The NCN infrastructure provides a level of organizational and programmatic capacity more than adequate to meet the goals, outcomes and strategies outlined in the Foundation program.

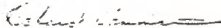
Comprehensive outreach will be critical to the success of the program. The NCN network will be used to reach out to all relevant parties. These will include the wide variety of community-based and neighborhood groups; all of the existing drug prevention and rehabilitation programs; health providers, particularly the University of Medicine and Dentistry of N.J. and the Director of the Department of Adolescent Medicine, Dr. Robert Johnson; and the City Office of the Medical Director, Dr. Adewale Troutman.

In terms of the planning phase, a preliminary assessment by the NCN membership leans toward requesting a one year grant for this stage of the program. It was felt that NCN's network could efficiently bring together all relevant parties, assess current data and develop an operational plan within a year.

On behalf of all those involved with NCN, I want to thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. My understanding is that should this letter of intent prove acceptable, NCN will receive an application from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,


Richard Cammareri
Executive Director